FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARMY ARRESTS FORMER PRESIDENT GALTIERI

PY130053 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0043 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (DYN) -- Former President Leopoldo Galtieri was arrested tonight at 2130 at his home and driven away in a Peugeot followed by three military vehicles.

Galtieri left his home, located on 1700 Sucre Street, in a Peugeot, plate No C1,098,063, followed by three Army vehicles.

Their destination is unknown, but it is presumed that Galtieri will be taken to a military unit in the Greater Buenos Aires area.

Serving 45-day Sentence

PY130150 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0123 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (NA) -- A former Army commander in chief will chair the court of honor which will try Lieutenant General (Ret) Leopoldo Galtieri for his remarks on the Malvinas war, independently of the 45-day arrest he began to serve tonight at the military institution's headquarters at Campo de Mayo.

GROUP REQUESTS SOVIET SHIP TO GO TO FALKLANDS

PY122259 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1545 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (DYN) -- Osvaldo Destefanis, president of the Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland, today described his meeting with Soviet Ambassador to Argentina Sergey Striganov as "very positive." During the interview, he requested the loan of a Soviet ship to transport to the Malvinas 200 relatives of soldiers who are buried on the islands.

At the end of an almost 1-hour closed door meeting, Destefanis stated that the ambassador "now only has to consult his government in Moscow. We have stated our requirements and the Soviets are aware that the only condition imposed by Great Britain is that the vessel not be Argentinian."

After requesting economic support from "companies and the citizenry in general," the director of the Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland pointed out that "we would not be knocking at the Soviet Embassy's door today had one of the 21 Latin American nations, whose ambassadors we resorted to first, given us any kind of answer, or some help." He then noted that the trip must be made no later than the first week of May due to "weather conditions."

Relatives Group Returns From UK

PY120202 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1505 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (DYN) -- The representatives of the Commission of Parents and Relatives of Missing Combatants returned to the country today with a list of Argentine soldiers who died in the Malvinas war. The list was supplied by the British Government.

In statements made at Ezeiza Airport, the travelers said that "the door has been opened to bring the bodies back" from the Malvinas, because "British officials have stated that they would sidestep the word 'repatriation' (which is being questioned

by Argentina), as this is a question of a humanitarian mission and the details will be channelled through the Red Cross."

The Commission of Parents and Relatives of Missing Combatants will compare the list obtained in London with the lists in the hands of the Joint Staff and will demand clarification of a London report that indicates that "many of the prisoners that were returned to Argentina have not contacted their relatives" according to the commission's spokesmen.

"The British Foreign Office has assured us that there are no prisoners in the hands of that country and we believe that the Argentine Government must give an explanation of the London report," said Isaias Jimenez, father of a Pucara pilot who ejected after carrying out a mission and president of the Commission of Parents and Relatives of Missing Combatants.

"It is also expected that [words indistinct] international organizations and the flat statement made by Douglas Onslow (deputy minister of Great Britain) [as received] should be made to the United Nations," Jimenez added. He explained that the group was allowed to enter Great Britain with a "courtesy" visa after arduous negotiations by the World Council of Churches and he reported earlier that they had met in Geneva with UN representatives, who promised "full support for our desire to know the truth about the fate of our sons."

The British Government list contains the names of 107 identified combatants and gives details of another 114 that have not been identified due to lack of data.

"The list that was given to us provides no details as to why or how they are missing nor does it describe the fate of many of the missing. Therefore, we will continue to search until all channels are exhausted, because we want to know whether our sons are alive or dead," Jimenez added.

As for the British statement that some of the missing were returned to Argentina at a later date, the commission's president said that "they say that they have that information and we want to prove it."

362 POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTER FOR ELECTIONS

PY130124 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1515 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (DYN) -- The Interior Ministry reported today that 362 political parties, including 142 new ones, have applied for registration with the Electoral Board.

The Interior Ministry's press office has released the lists containing the names of the political parties that have taken the necessary steps in their respective electoral districts in order to request legal status. The lists contain the names of the new parties and those parties that existed before the approval of the Political Parties Law.

The Federal Capital has the largest number of new parties: 25, followed by Buenos Aires Province with 15 and Mendoza and Salta Provinces with 11 new parties each.

LUDWIG'S CRITICISM OF SAO PAULO POLICE ANSWERED

FY121527 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] The Sao Paulo public security secretary has responded to criticism from General Rubem Ludwig. Reporter Bahia Filho reports in this regard.

[Begin Filho recording] Yesterday, Sao Paulo Public Security Secretary (Manuel Pedro Pimentel) distributed, through his press adviser, (Rene Maria Sierra), copies of the letter he sent to presidential military household chief Gen Rubem Ludwig in which he takes issue with Ludwig's statement that the Sao Paulo police lacked the courage to face the street demonstrations of unemployed workers.

In his letter, the public security secretary states in a cutting and categorical manner that the term lack of courage, which is synonymous with cowardice, does not apply and will never apply to the Sao Paulo police, because it is offensive to the traditions of the civilian and military police.

The public security secretary feels that this remark made by a high-ranking authority of the republic -- if he made this remark -- cannot go unanswered. It would be cowardice to remain silent.

In another part of the letter, (Pimentel) states that he cannot tolerate the offense, regardless of where it comes from and who made it, because we do not lack the courage to categorically reject the accusation made by the presidential military household chief.

Governor Franco Montoro also learned about the contents of the letter but declined further comment on the issue. [end recording]

In Brasilia, General Ludwig confirmed his remarks made in Porto Velho, but added that he did not intend to offend the Sao Paulo police. Ludwig explained that the term lack of courage referred to the political courage of the authorities, or more specifically, of Governor Montoro, in dealing with the incidents.

THREE STATES CREATE UNEMPLOYMENT 'WORK FRONT'

FY122253 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Apr 83 p 8

[Excerpt] Governor Leonel Brizola announced the creation of a "work front" yesterday in order to combat unemployment. The front will include the States of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais. According to Brizola, the governors of the three states, "who created the front in Sao Paulo yesterday," will resort to the federal government to obtain help to confront the problem.

According to Brizola, the three governors have agreed to obtain detailed data on unemployment in the three states. Once the data is obtained, the matter will be put in the hands of the president. Brizola said that if we had had detailed data about unemployment in Rio de Janeiro today, I would have taken the plane and put the problem in the hands of the president.

The governor of Rio de Janeiro believes that the problem of unemployment "goes beyond the boundaries of party questions and ideologies to become a common problem of the nation."

Regarding our case here in Rio de Janeiro, Brizola said, I am certain that the president will help in seeking a solution to the problem because he was born here. It is Brizola's belief that the success of the fight against unemployment depends on the fact that it is not a problem of any one party, it is an apolitical problem. With this as a starting point, it will be possible to outline a plan that will lead to a solution, including the involvement of the federal, state and municipal areas.

RIOTERS SACK SUPERMARKET IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PY130149 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0135 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 12 Apr (TELAM/ANSA) -- A group of approximately 200 unemployed people invaded and sacked a supermarket this afternoon in the suburb of Bras de Pina of this city. The incident was similar to the two that took place yesterday and last week in the suburbs of Senador Camara and Vigario Geral the former capital of Brazil. The invaders broke the windows with stones, as they did on the other two occasions, and stole food and liquor.

POLICE DETAIN NINE IN OSASCO; PREVENT RALLY

PY121519 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Nine persons were detained in Osasco yesterday while distributing pamphlets calling the unemployed workers to a meeting in front of the local city hall. The police had prohibited the meeting and 250 civilian and military police were deployed at the plaza late in the afternoon.

The detainees were questioned and released after consultations with the detention department of the DEIC [Criminal Investigations Department].

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH UNITED STATES

PY130045 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Guy Fiske signed a memorandum of intent today regarding cooperation in the construction of two hydroelectric plants, two thermoelectric plants, development in the gasification of coal and technical and scientific cooperation in the area of biological research.

The cooperation in the hydroelectric sector includes the Santa Isabel L.C. plant, located on the Araguaja River, which will have a nominal generating capacity of 2,000 MW. According to Minister Cals, this will help in developing the vast mineral deposits located in the Amazon sector and thus give a strong stimulus to Brazil's effort in the integration of that section.

San Felix, located on the Tocantins River, is the other hydroelectric plant to be built with U.S. cooperation. It will have a nominal generating capacity of 1,700 MW.

VENEZUELAN MILITARY TO HELP FIGHT BORDER CRIME

PA130317 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Apr 83 p 8B

[By Henry Rojas]

[Excerpts] Guasdalito, Venezuela -- The armed forces of Colombia and Venezuela have agreed to jointly confront crimes such as kidnappings and cattle rustling that have spread throughout the border area, especially in the Arauca region and Apure State. The agreement was reached after a meeting of the two countries' military high commands in the Venezuelan town of Guasdalito.

The military summit meeting was presided over by the Venezuelan justice minister and by the commanders of the Armed Forces of Cooperation [Fuerzas Armadas de Cooperacion], the Judicial Technical Police, the Office of Military Intelligence and the 5th and 6th Brigades. Colombia was represented by Alvaro Arenas Suarez, national director of the Administrative Department of Security of Colombia; the chief of the services branch of the National Police [Servicios de la Policia Nacional]; the chief of DIPEC [not further identified]; the commander of the 5th Brigade; and the commander of the Army's Centaur Task Force.

The participants analyzed the growing problem of kidnapping in the border area, taking into consideration the fact that if there is no combined action among the security organizations of the two countries it will be impossible to fight the problem because of the ease with which the kidnappers continuously move their victims from one side of the border to the other.

Colombian Proposal

The Colombian delegation proposed the establishment of a continuous exchange of information as well as mechanisms and measures to make impossible any kidnappings, cattle rustling or cattle smuggling.

General Beltel, chief of the operations command of the 1st Brigade of Venezuela, proposed that his country and Colombia frequently hold this type of meeting so that agreements reached on this subject are duly fulfilled. He noted: "These crimes affect Colombians and Venezuelans alike, and if we don't join efforts to confront them, we will lose a most important battle."

The participants also analyzed the situation of Arauca region cattlemen, who are abandoning their herds and seeking refuge in Venezuelan cities such as San Cristobal as a result of the subversion and frequent kidnap threats.

The Venezuelan military spokesman stated their concern over the many kidnappings that take place in their country's border region. Most of the victims are taken to Colombian territory, presumably in some cases by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which is believed to be involved in some kidnap cases, such as that of cattleman Ruiz Zapata.

The Venezuelan military stated their concern over a massive infiltration of Colombian guerrillas into Venezuelan territory, and asked their Colombian colleagues to conduct special operations to avoid this situation which, they said, "dangerously affects our national sovereignty and border relations."

HURTADO, DELEGATION RETURN FROM VISIT TO U.S.

PA092358 Paris AFP in Spanish 2322 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] Quito, 9 Apr (AFP) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado returned here today after a 3-day visit to the United States where he held important meetings with ranking officials of that country, bankers and oilmen, the OAS, and the UN Latin American group. The president arrived at 1515 (2015 GMT) together with his retinue on an "Ecuadorean Airlines" flight.

Hurtado Pleased With Trip

PA101510 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] President Oswaldo Hurtado said he was pleased with his talks with President Reagan. [Begin recording] [Hurtado] I am very satisfied with the opportunity I had to talk with President Reagan about Latin American economic problems and their social and political consequences. In Latin America, specifically in my country, Ecador, we are assuming the responsibility we each have to restore the economic balance and correct the factors that contribute to the crisis. In talks I have had this week with representatives from various institutions, and in the one I have just concluded with President Reagan, I found great understanding of the economic problems affecting Latin America. [end recording]

In an interview with the Washington press, President Hurtado said he was pleased with his visit to the United States. He said that his meeting with President Reagan was positive, and that the central theme was the economic crisis. [Begin recording] [Question] Mr. President, may we have your impressions of this trip to the United States? What do you think you have accomplished?

[Answer] The main purpose of my trip to the United States was to discuss with the country's authorities and dignitaries the serious crisis affecting Latin America, particularly my country, Ecuador. This has been possible to a great extent in meetings I have had in New York, initially with representatives of the U.S. oil industry, then with the Latin American bloc and Third World representatives to the United Nations; later with the U.S. secretary of state, and tomorrow with the U.S. vice president. Most important was my meeting this afternoon with President Reagan. All these talks have enabled me to inform all those who guide, direct and represent the U.S. people about the serious crisis affecting Latin America and Ecuador, and about the necessity for the North and South -- the industrialized North and the developing South -- to jointly find a solution to this grave problem.

[Question] Mr President, are we trying to foment more investments in Ecuador, or are we trying to get the IMF, the IDB, the World Bank to help Ecuador in overcoming this crisis, resulting mainly from the oil crisis?

[Answer] We are trying to do many things, and you have mentioned some of them. In addition, each Latin American country should comply with its responsibilities -- which we have done, at least in Ecuador. Multilateral organizations, such as the IMF, World Bank and IDB, should restructure their programs, procedures and guidelines in accordance with the new critical conditions in Latin America. And industrialized countries, particularly the United States, should assume a generous attitude and behavior.

[Question] Did President Reagan promise any specific help, Mr President?

[Answer] I did not propose any specific help to President Reagan. I preferred to talk of the problems in general terms in this perspective, and I perceived great understanding in the U.S. Administration.

[Question] What immediate stpes will there be to help Ecuador economically in overcoming the serious crisis resulting from the floods on the coast?

[Answer] Several measures, with serious social repercussions. Whether because of the international crisis, or the floods we have had in the coast, the Ecuadorean people will be asked to save more. This means more taxes, elimination of subsidies, monetary devaluation, and it is painful to add more problems to people who already have many very grave problems.

[Question] Finally, in any event, are you optimistic and pleased with there 3 days of intense activities in New York and Washington?

[Answer] I believe so, for the reasons I have just mentioned. The purpose of my trip has been fully accomplished. Even U.S. communications media -- not always open for Latin America, except when there is convulsion or coups d'etats -- in this case have been receptive in learning about the opinion of the Ecuadorean president. This is good, because the United States is not only a government, it is also 200 million U.S. citizens.

[Question] Mr President, we wish you the greatest success in conducting your presidential duties in Ecuador, and we are very happy to hear that your visit here has been so fruitful. [end recording]

Foreign Minister's Comments

PA1O1240 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0354 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Text] Quito, 9 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Ecuadorean Government has asked the United States to exert "the necessary influence" on Peru to search for the appropriate channels to achieve a peaceful, just and honorable solution to the existing border conflict between the two countries.

Announcement of the request was made here today by Foreign Minister Luis Valencia, at a press conference held on his arrival in Quito as a member of the official retinue that accompanied President Oswaldo Hurtado on an official 3-day visit to the United States.

Speaking to newsmen, Hurtado said: "In the United States we reiterated our desire to find a peaceful solution to the territorial dispute (with Peru), and it is obvious that this visit cannot provide a solution to a crisis of this sort which has (?existed) for a long time."

Valencia added that during Hurtado's visit to the United States "we reiterated Ecuador's readiness to negotiate with Peru and the necessity that friendly countries, principally the United States, which maintain a special leadership in the region, exert the necessary influence with Peru to search for appropriate channels for a peaceful, just, and honorable solution to this problem."

He noted that in response to this request, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz "affirmed that the United States will continue to maintain a policy of promoting peaceful negotiations so that the existing conflict between Ecuador and Peru as well as all questions and conflicts existing in the continent, can be resolved through peaceful means."

He indicated that the problem was not broached during the talks held Friday between Hurtado and President Ronald Reagan, but only by the foreign minister during the dialogues he held with Secretary of State Shultz. Asked about the possibility of the existing conflict being overcome, Valencia reiterated that to achieve this objective it is necessary that Ecuador and Peru sit down at a table to negotiate.

"If one of the two parties rejects this, it is necessary to try to obtain international influence to convince Peru to sit down at the negotiating table, which is what we accomplished in Washington," he said. "No effort is insignificant and our presentation in Washington is solidly based and will produce immediate and long-term results.

President's Address to OAS

PA082228 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] If the worst economic crisis in the history of Latin America is not resolved, Latin America could turn into a social political volcano of unpredictable consequences, Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado said today. As part of his work schedule during his official visit to Washington, President Hurtado delivered a dramatic speech to a special session of the OAS Permanent Council. He said that if there are no solutions to the region's crisis, despite all the efforts made by our countries, the region could confront new unrest of unforseen consequences. Hurtado made a strong appeal for Latin American unity and international cooperation for the region's recovery, in order to guarantee peace as well as economic and social development.

Speaking in the OAS Permanent Council Room, which was full to capacity with ambassadors, observers and special guests, President Hurtado said that although the crisis is fundamentally financial, it also has social implications. The signs of such implications are already appearing, and they could become destabilizing factors in the continent's political life. We must not forget that violence in Central America, which is stained with the blood of thousands of our Latin American brothers, has its roots in the oppression, social injustice and economic problems existing in the region.

Similar consequences can be expected from the deteriorated socioeconomic conditions in Latin America, which are progressively extending to other countries with their implications as a factor of political destabilization in the region, President Hurtado said. Further on, he said that it would be a big mistake to think that the internal aspects of Latin America's present crisis can be dealt with through the local efforts of individual countries. President Hurtado added that last February his government urged SELA and the Economic Commission for Latin America, ECLA, to draft a plan. Such a strategy to face up to the crisis could be enriched by the experiences of the region's governments.

Hurtado demanded that mutual trust be restored in the region and that the self-sufficient attitudes dividing us be set aside. He also asked that regional institutions be strengthened and that a coordinated plan for talks with the United States be devised. He reiterated the idea of a new international economic order. It is necessary to unite in order to face up to these crucial hours that confront Latin America, Hurtado pointed out.

President Hurtado referred to the unemployment problem in Latin America as well as to the high social cost of the foreign debt and the delay in the implementation of economic and social development plans. He insisted that private banks and multinational enterprises must guarantee the availability of credit to Latin America, as part of international aid to overcome the crisis.

He also referred to the U.S. role in the solution of the current international crisis, the problems of Latin America, the Central American conflict and the Peruvian-Ecuadorean border conflict. He referred to the international situation and various other issues.

Hurtado explained that since the regional problems were the main reason for his trip, he has given them priority over his country's problems. He said that with President Reagan, he will discuss bilateral issues, Ecuador's position regarding the region's problems. Hurtado said he will specially emphasize the fact that the Latin American crisis can lead to political and social unrest that my seriously threaten the political existence of the democratic governments in the region.

According to Hurtado, the South-South cooperation among developing countries in no way precludes effective and productive bilateral dialogue with the United States. He said that it is impossible to have a South-South cooperation without the United States playing a fundamental role in the region's development. I cannot see a solution to Latin America's crisis without the U.S. participation, Hurtado said. South-South cooperation does not necessarily have to be interpreted as a South-West confrontation, Hurtado said. The main problem at this moment is not the East-West conflict; it is North-South friction.

Finally, President Hurtado said that his proposal to SELA and ECLA on a strategy to face the ecoromic crisis has received the generous support of many countries. He said that in view of current problems, Latin America should worry about the multilateral problems and not only bilateral ones.

NEW INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE MINISTER APPOINTED

PA120229 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The president of the republic has appointed Jose Augusto Bermeo as industries, commerce and integration minister, replacing Orlando Alcivar Santos, who resigned a few days ago.

The new officials, who was sworn in this afternoon, has connections with the country's export and small industry sectors. Bermeo, a member of the People's Democracy Party, was president of the National Finance Corporation from the beginning of the constitutional regime. Here is what he said at the swearing-in ceremony.

[Begin Bermeo recording -- in progress] ...with the tourism sector in order to overcome together the difficult economic situation the country -- and especially the sectors I have mentioned -- is going through. I believe that only with understanding and close cooperation between the government and the sectors represented by associations will be able to overcome the difficult situation we are enduring at this time.

Regarding the industrial sector, we will continue to strengthen the development of manufacturing industries that basically use national raw materials, and that are directed at foreign markets.

The ministry I head will give special importance to tourism. I bleieve that tourism is a source of resources for the country, and that it is necessary to promote it with more vigor.

DEATH SQUADS ALLEGEDLY ACTIVE IN AYACUCHO

PY122242 Lima EL DIARIO DE LA MARKA in Spanish 8 Apr 83 p 5

[By our correspondent Luis Morales]

[Excerpts] Ayacucho, 7 Apr -- Death squads, which include members of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP) and of the army dressed in civilian clothes, are allegedly operating in this city in the fight mounted by the government against subversion.

The attack against Carlos Lumbreras Paz Vergara by three individuals is presumably proof that these squad are active. It has been established that two of the individuals are members of the PIP and the third individual is a noncommissioned officer of the army.

The three aggressors obtained their release through the good offices of an army major and a PIP officer, according to note No 55-9c-ca-cd of 5 April, in which the Civil Guard informs the PIP's regional chief of the incident.

Murders Continue

PY130137 Paris AFP in Spanish 1900 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Lima, 12 Apr (AFP) -- According to private and official information released in Lima today, four persons, including three teachers, were killed in a village in Ayacucho Department on Sunday and on the same day three extremists were killed during a confrontation with the police.

According to the reports, three teachers and a peasant were murdered in the village of Paras, located in Cangallo Province of Ayacucho Department, by a Shining Path terrorist group, while a fair was going on.

However, relatives of the victims have charged that they were murdered by the police in an incident that has been called a lamentable error, because the police thought they were Shining Path members.

The accusers have reported the case to the director of the Local Department of Education, Esteban Paredes, who has addressed a note to the Political-Military Command of the emergency zone asking for an exhaustive investigation.

On its part, the Political-Military Command has reported that the police had a confrontation with subversives -- killing three of them -- in the locality of San Jorge, Victor Fajardo Province.

The Political-Military Command adds that during a search of the house of the dead people, the police found four dynamite sticks, 50 meters of fuse wire and two red flags with the hammer and cycle, the banner of the Maoist group, Shining Path.

SEPULVEDA ASKS STUDY OF ARCHIPELAGO'S STATUS

PA130028 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Apr 83 pp 1-A, 15-A

[By Fernando Meraz]

[Excerpt] Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor has asked the Bounderies and Waters Commission [Comision de Limites y Aguas] for a detailed report on the legal status of the eight islands of the Archipielago del Norte, in the Pacific, and of the 25,000-nautical mile (46.3 km) [figures as published] area in the Gulf of Mexico -- where the United States recently located rich oil and precious metal deposits -- to define the Mexican Government's position in this case.

A review by this reporter of the treaties and conventions signed between Mexico and the United States on boundaries and waters clearly revealed that the last of these, signed on 4 May 1978 by Santiago Roel, secretary of foreign relations at the time, and Cyrus Vance, former U.S. secretary of state, has not been ratified by the U.S. Senate; therefore, according to international law, it is not in effect, as confirmed by Eduardo Hernandez Elguezabal, secretary general of the Mexican Society of History and Geography.

SEPULVEDA CALLS ON U.S., USSR TO STOP ARMS FLOW

FL121230 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0518 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Panama, 11 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor has called on the United States and the Soviet Union to stop supplying arms to Central American countries and come up with a solution to the conflict in that area.

The Mexican foreign secretary made that statement before meeting with his counterparts Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia, Jose Velasco Zambrano of Venezuela, and Juan Jose Amado of Panama, signatories to the Contadora declaration advocating a search for more viable mechanisms to bring about effective and lasting peace to the Central American problem.

DE LA MADRID MEETS WITH NICARAGUA'S RUIZ

PA120300 Paris AFP in Spanish 0111 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Commander Henry Ruiz, member of the FSLN National Directorate and planning minister of Nicaragua, agreed here today that the Contadora declaration should be the basis for pacification and coexistence in Central America.

Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Sandinist Commander Henry Ruiz met today to discuss the situation of Central America, a Mexican Foreign Secretariat communique reported.

At the same time, the Mexican president and Sandinist commander agreed that the two governments will maintain permanent contacts to promote the principles and purposes contained in the Contadora declaration because both consider them a practical formula to advance toward the peace and coexistence sought.

The official communique indicated that during the talks De la Madrid advised Ruiz of "the essential aspects" of the meeting held with Colombian President Belisario Betancur on 9 April. The same reports indicated that De la Madrid and Ruiz "exchanged views" on the meeting of the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, the signatory countries of the Contadora declaration, which began today in Panama and which was suspended to permit them to hold consultations with their (?respective) governments. During the meeting, they agreed, according to an official communique, to adopt diplomatic actions that will be carried out with the object of reducing tensions in the Central American region [words indistinct] warlike conflict with the final purpose of ensuring [words indistinct] peaceful but harmonious coexistence among the countries of the isthmus.

For the purpose of securing this objective, De la Madrid and Ruiz agreed that it is necessary "to promote bilateral contacts that might gradually lead to a multilateral dialogue." The communique added that in this context, the Sandinist commander informed the Mexican president of the "positive advances that have been achieved in the relations between the authorities of Nicaragua and Costa Rica." The report added that Ruiz told De la Madrid that [words indistinct] in the relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica has been possible due to the high-level dialogue begun by the two countries.

For his part, De la Madrid reiterated the "will of Mexico to continue cooperating with Nicaragua."

FURTHER ON DE LA MADRID-BETANCUR COMMUNIQUE

PA121450 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Apr 83 pp 1-A, 9-A, 30-A

[Article by EXCELSIOR reporter Miguel Reyes Razo]

[Excerpt] Cozumel, Quintana Roo, 9 Apr -- Miguel de la Madrid and Belisario Betancur today agreed on stating that "everything that happens in Central America affects Colombia and Mexico" and that "peace in the area is of vital interest to the security of the two countries." They called for "the carrying out of immediate, specific actions to face up to the problems that threaten peace in the region." They also stressed that dialogue and negotiation must be promoted, taking into consideration the urgent need to eliminate foreign intervention in the Central American conflict. The Mexican and Colombian presidents said that "threats or the use of force in international relations must be banned and that the principles of self-determination and nonintervention in the affairs of other nations must be upheld." They urged the countries involved in the conflict to avoid actions which might aggravate the situation.

De la Madrid and Betancur reaffirmed the principles stated at the Contadora meeting, "understanding them as a basis to promote peace and security in the Central American area."

This concurrence is the result of 6 hours of talks that the two presidents held here today. At the end of these talks, they issued a joint communique entitled the "Cozumel Communique." From the beginning of this communique, it is said that the meeting was "informal," without the traditional protocol that characterizes meetings between chiefs of state. It was also said that the results of this meeting were effective and very fruitful.

De la Madrid and Betancur discussed the situation in Latin America and noted that it would be very useful for the region to expand and increase relations among Latin American peoples and governments. They stressed their political willingness "to strengthen the scope of relations among the Latin American nations and to guarantee the rapprochement between the two countries with practical plans." They added that they are convinced that "the region's economic situation must be used to implement specific cooperation programs that allow Latin American countries to mitigate the negative effects of the international economic crisis and to establish a new stage in their cooperation for development."

They acknowledged that the existing bilateral ties are highly satisfactory and mutually advantageous and stressed the need to continue their cooperation through the joint Colombian-Mexican commission. They decided to assign the commission a new and active role.

According to the "Cozumel Communique," President Betancur informed De la Madrid of the satisfactory results of a meeting that he held with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins in Caracas.

Betancur on Visit

PA122156 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Apr 83 p 8A

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Cozumel, Mexico, 10 Apr -- The presidents of Colombia and Mexico, Belisario Betancur and Miguel de la Madrid, agreed here today that Central America's problems cannot be resolved militarily. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of military advisers, an end to the supply of war materiel to the region and the closing of the centers of logistical support from which the struggle is promoted. A declaration issued by Betancur at the end of his peace talks here with De la Madrid states:

"With President Miguel de la Madrid we have carefully and thoroughly reviewed the various aspects of the complex and explosive Central American situation. As with President Herrera Campins, we have reached the conclusion that the path to a peaceful and negotiated agreement is synthesized in the Contadora document.

Special emphasis must be placed on the set of elements that led to the crisis, which we coincide in attributing to the region's economic, social and political areas and the peoples' just aspirations for change rather than to some exogenous factor related to the global East-West confrontation. It is at the least unfair that we should be used as pawns in this power game. Moreover, we deem it highly undesirable to insist on that viewpoint under the present circumstances.

The aspirations for economic progress, social welfare and political independence cannot be resolved militarily. This is why we must demand the immediate withdrawal of all the contingents of military advisers, an end to the supply of war materiel that goes beyond the real defense needs and way beyond the countries' economic and fiscal capacity, and the elimination of the logistical support centers from which the struggle is promoted. In a climate of peace and conciliation, it will then be possible to implement the democratic principles of political pluralism, participation by the people and open electoral competition.

These demands are in line with the unrenounceable principles of self-determination, nonintervention and peaceful solution of international controversies. In order to bring them about, it is necessary to be seriously interested in a dialogue among the immediate protagonists, and in prudence among those indirectly involved.

During this brief visit, we have been able to personally feel Mexico's nationalistic character. Despite the problems it currently faces and solves, Mexico manages to move toward modernization without giving up its roots, its cultural identity or its ancient lineage. From this northern border of our Latin America, in this year of the bicentennial of Liberator Simon Bolivar, we recall the current relevance of this condemnation of fratricidal struggle expressed by Miguel Hidalgo in his manifesto of December 1810: "Let us break, Americans, those ties of ignominy with which we have been kept bound for such a long time. To achieve this, all we need to do is unite. If we do not fight against ourselves, the war is over and our rights are safe."

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- Mexico City, 12 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Under Secretary of Foreign Relations Alfonso de Rasenzwig Diaz today received copies of the credentials of the new ambassadors from the FRG, Haiti, the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and New Zealand. The new diplomats are Heinz Dittmann from the FRG, Yves Francois from Haiti, Perparim Sinani from Socialist Albania and Peter Ogden Fairfax from New Zealand. The ambassadors will present the originals of their credentials to President Miguel de la Madrid in the next few days. [Text] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0130 GMT 13 Apr 83 FL]

AMADO STATEMENT ON MINISTERS MEETING, TOUR

PA121503 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Report by (Omayra de Leon)]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama began a tour of all the Central American countries at 0600 today for high-level consultations on the area's situation. The decision to go on this tour was made last night, following a meeting of almost 15 hours held by the foreign ministers. At the meeting, the ministers reviewed the grave situation that currently threatens to unleash a war in this part of the continent.

A communique released to the press notes that the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama, acting within the framework of the principles outlined in the Contadora declaration of 9 January 1983, and after contacting the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemals, Honduras and Nicaragua, will jointly visit the capitals of these countries on 12 and 13 April -- that is today and tomorrow -- for consultations on the current Central American situation. Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado released this communique to the local and international media.

Commenting on the area situation, Amado said that the problems is complex and cannot be approached through simplistic solutions or actions; thus the need to hold so many consultations and to make so many recommendations in a cautious but firm way. Amado said that they are sure that whatever they do will be in the best interest of the Central American isthmus. Great caution is needed so as not to do anything that might be contrary to the interests of those Central American nations. Here is Foreign Minister Amado's statement:

[Begin recording] Since the problem is so complex, and it cannot be framed by simplistic solutions or actions, we have had to hold as many consultations and to make as many recommendations as possible in a very cautious but firm way, convinced that whatever we do is in the best interest of the Central American isthmus. We must be very cautious not to do anything that might be contrary to the interests of the Central American countries, or which might be interpreted as harmful to their internal and sovereign rights, or as involvement in their domestic (?problems).

In order to make our work more effective, we think a consultation tour of the Central American countries would be advisable. We have already contacted the five Central American countries and we will begin the tour early tomorrow. The tour will be conducted in accordance with the isthmus' geographical configuration; it will begin in Costa Rica and will end in Guatemala. [End recording]

The foreign ministers also referred to the countries consulted in this connection, stressing that only those countries involved were consulted. He added that the four foreign ministers that comprise the Contadora Group will participate in the tour.

[Begin recording] [Amado] We have consulted mostly the Central American countries. We did contact our OAS ambassadors in an effort to postpone any decision on the resolutions that were under discussion. This will give us some room to work in without having the mechanisms of this internationsl organization affect or hinder our joint work.

[Question] Does the urgent nature of this meeting respond to a real emergency or an imminent danger of war in Central America, of a generalized war?

[Answer] Well, we think that the issue is important and that the situation is serious. We must act within our limitations, but as quickly as time and the prevailing conditions permit.

[Question] Will the four foreign ministers go on this tour?

[Answer] Right, the four foreign ministers will go on this tour together. [end recording]

Asked about the visit that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto is currently making to Panama, Amado said that D'Escoto has not participated in the Contadora group's meetings. He added, however, that he had held a protocol meeting with the Nicaraguan foreign minister, when he visited President Ricardo de la Espriella yesterday.

Amado said: [Begin recording] I greeted Foreign Minister d'Escoto on the occasion of his visit to Panama. We discussed bilateral and Central American issues. His visit, however, is not related to the meeting of the four foreign ministers on Contadora. He has not participated in the Contadora meeting. [end recording]

One of the accomplishments of the meeting held by the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama is that they asked the OAS to postpone indefinitely a meeting slated for today on the conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua. The request was granted. Concerning this, Foreign Minister Amado said that they had asked the OAS to let them take some steps before (?considering a vote):

[Begin recording] [Amado] I think that the interest shown by the OAS countries, particularly Honduras and Nicaragua, to the effect that the four foreign ministers who signed the Contadora declaration be allowed to work, is a vote of confidence and hope. We must back it with good actions and great sense of responsibility. We asked the ambassadors and representatives of the various countries to let us take some steps before (?discussing) or voting on (?any resolution).

[Question] Are you taking any specific suggestion?

[Answer] No. We are going to listen to and collect as much information as possible to enable us to obtain good factors for judgement. [end recording]

As for the various efforts currently underway to achieve peace in the area, Minister Amado explained that all of them are good and that none of them is a failure, since all of the efforts are aimed at the same solution; that is, the achievement of true and lasting peace in the area.

[Begin recording] [Amado] I think that it is important to note that in essence, none of these efforts is a failure. They are all good contributions. Some may be applicable immediately, some may be medium or long-term initiatives, but all of them, all of these efforts by the various countries, made in good faith and in the interest of achieving lasting peace in Central America and peaceful coexistence in line with the interests of the Central American people, all these efforts must be accepted (?as interest on the part) of the countries carrying them out.

This is one such action. Depending on what we may be able to achieve in this tour, this effort will be more or less effective. We are confident that the will of the Central American countries that we have contacted is in itself reason for optimism. We trust that information will be made available and that the consultations that we may hold will help us make specific contributions.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, it has been said that efforts will also be made to hold consultations with the U.S. and Soviet Governments. Is this true?

[Answer] No, on the contrary. We have often said that Central America's problems must be handled outside the framework of the East-West confrontation. We think that there are certain difficulties, which derive from certain hereditary problems and conditions in our Central American isthmus. They also derive from the people's desire to improve their socioeconomic conditions, from their interest in having political participation. It is from this standpoint that we must approach and attack the problem.

[Question] How will you get the military advisers to withdraw?

[Answer] That will be included in the talks and consultations that we will carry out. Remember that we can make efforts, but we can't impose conditions. [end recording]

It is worth noting that prior to the end of the foreign ministers' 15-hour meeting yesterday, the OAS cast a vote of confidence for the Contadora group, leaving in their hands the task of seeking the best peace solution for the area. This decision was blocked by the United States, which advocated a debate of this topic at the organization.

Meanwhile, John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador in Honduras, commented that he has not read the statements of Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella on the Central American situation. Ambassador Negroponte added: we are sure that the solution to Central America's problems must be negotiated multilaterally, for this is the best path. He also said that the Central American situation and peace in the region can be neither discussed nor negotiated bilaterally. They must be negotiated multilaterally.

For his part, Commander Henry Ruiz, Nicaragua's planning minister, returned to his country last night after meeting with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. Following their meetings, they issued a communique stating that the diplomatic actions currently underway seek to favor the reduction of tensions in Central America and to remove the risk of a war in order to guarantee complete pacification and harmonious coexistence among the nations of the isthmus. They also called for bilateral contacts that might eventually lead to a multilateral dialogue. It has been learned that the Nicaraguan foreign minister will soon visit Colombia to report to President Betancur on his government's position.

It has also been learned that, according to unofficial sources, the tour of Central America begun today by the Contadora Group foreign ministers also seeks to promote a meeting of the Central American foreign ministers. The meeting might be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 24 April. Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama and the Dominican Republic would participate in this event.

D'ESCOTO DENIES SOCIALIST MILITARY AID SOUGHT

PA121526 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Apr 83 p 10A

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Excerpts] In reply to a question by LA PRENSA, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto said that Nicaragua has not considered asking the socialist bloc for military aid, should the internal situation become worse and should the Sandinist revolution find itself losing the battle against its enemies.

Surprised by the question, D'Escoto, in a low and hesitating voice, denied the possibility that Nicaragua might formally resort to Cuba and the USSR to reinforce its forces in an effort to confront the rebel invasion.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Embassy yesterday issued a long communique in which it said among other things: "...revolutionary Nicaragua has received and continues receiving considerable expressions of solidarity, including the offer of brigades of volunteer fighters."

At the reporters' insistence, Foreign Minister d'Escoto said that the foreign ministers meeting in Panama to discuss the Central American crisis expresses the Latin Americanist spirit and the sincere efforts underway to have peace in the region. Peace, he added, is threatened by the war that is going on in Nicaragua, a war that the United States is conducting from Honduras, using officers and members of the former Somozist National Guard as its main instruments.

SHULTZ, CASTRO CONTACTED BY MINISTERS AT MEETING

PA121808 Paris AFP in Spanish 1741 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Panama City, 12 Apr (AFP) -- The foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, who met for more than 14 hours to discuss the Central American crisis, last night phoned Cuban President Fidel Castro and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for consultations.

None of what was discussed with these ranking officials has been publicly disclosed. Nor has it been possible to confirm these contacts with Castro and Shultz with the ministers themselves, a high-ranking Panamanian official, who asked to remain unidentified, has told AFP.

The four foreign ministers -- Bernardo Sepulveda (Mexico), Jose Alberto Zambrano (Venezuela), Rodrigo Lloreda (Colombia) and Juan Jose Amado (Panama) -- reviewed the possibility of finding a solution to the grave regional situation, making numerous phone calls not only to their respective governments but also to the leaders of other interested nations.

Zambrano left four times for brief consultations, while his counterparts from Colombia and Panama made these consultations from rooms located beside the presidential suite of a hotel in this capital, where they held the meeting.

GENERAL PAREDES RETURNS FROM VACATION IN U.S.

PA121313 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the Panamanian armed forces, returned to the country yesterday after a 2-week vacation in the United States. He returned to his office on A Avenue very early this morning.

Tours Darien Province

PA121436 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Apr 83 pp 1, 17

[Excerpt] Immediately on returning from his vacation in the United States, General Paredes resumed his activities yesterday by tackling one of the priorities on his agenda. He visited remote places in Darien Province. Parades visited Lajas Blancas, a Choco area on the border with Colombia. He reviewed projects being carried out by [the National Guard's] Civic Action Department there and in Torti and Rio Congo, and met with residents of various towns of Darien. He was accompanied by Col Marcos Justine and Lt Col Alberto Purcell, top officers of the National Guard's General Staff, in addition to other officers.

ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID TO RULE AGAINST REFERENDUM

PA112212 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1845 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Excerpt] We have a last-minute news report for our listeners: The motion of unconstitutionality filed by lawyers Miguel Antonio Bernal, Carlos Enrique Adames and Joaquin Ortega last week has been taken under advisement by the attorney general of the nation. The decision of the attorney general of the nation -- which will supposedly be released during the day -- concurs; that is, the attorney general believes that the referendum is unconstitutional.

More on 'Unconstitutionality'

PA120153 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] Rafael Rodriguez, the nation's attorney general, has filed with the Supreme Court of Justice a motion of unconstitutionality against Resolution No. 38 of March 1983, issued by the cabinet council. This resolution convoked a referendum on reforms to Panama's Constitution, as well as calling for other measures.

After referring to the appropriate laws now in force, the attorney general said in his motion to the Supreme Court that it must be concluded that the Cabinet Council does not have the power to convoke a referendum for the people to approve or reject the constitutional reforms.

The attorney general said that Miguel Antonia Bernal, Carlos E. Adames and Joaquin Ortega had lodged a plea of unconstitutionality before him, which he had accepted and ruled favorably on.

COSTA RICA

'CONTADORA GROUP' MINISTERS MEET WITH MONGE

PA121413 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1352 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The foreign ministers of the four countries which make up the "Contadora group" are holding an emergency meeting with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and Foreign Minister Fernando Volio in the diplomatic room at Juan Santamaria Airport.

The foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela arrived at 0710 (1310 GMT) from Panama and were welcomed by the Costa Rican president and foreign minister as well as by Vice Presidents Alberto Fait and Armando Arauz Aguilar.

Juan Jose Amado of Panama, rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia, Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela and Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico today began a lightning visit to Central America to consult with area governments on the ideas to ease tensions on the isthmus. The ideas came out of the ministers' 15-hour meeting yesterday in Panama. The "Contadora group" is seeking a very rapid solution to the serious situation in the region.

Volio Comments on Visit

PA121601 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1508 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpts] San Jose, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela which make up the "Contadora Group" are seeking the "unanimous opinion" of the Central American rulers to promote peace in the region, a spokesman of the emergency meeting that the foreign ministers are holding here with President Luis Alberto Monge said.

According to information provided by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio, his counterparts of the Contadora Group have come to continue the peace efforts begun by the Colombian, Panamanian, Mexican, Venezuelan and Costa Rican presidents over the weekend.

"They are coming," Volio explained, "to give us their ideas on peace for Central America which, if they obtain the approval of all the countries involved in the problems, could be submitted to the OAS and the United Nations where Honduras and Nicaragua have presented statements and formulas to ease tensions between them."

The Costa Rican foreign minister described the participation of the "Contadora Group" countries in the search for Central American peace as very positive. Volio indicated that the Costa Rican Government has made and will continue to make many efforts for peace in the region.

Of these efforts, Volio stressed the meeting of eight foreign ministers, including the United States, on 4 October 1982 which led to the establishment of the Forum for Peace and Democracy. The Costa Rican foreign minister said that other projects followed that meeting, culminating with the 24 February meeting among the Honduran, Salvadoran and Costa Rican foreign ministers which proposed the meeting of all the governments of the area without exception. That meeting might be held in the Dominican Republic. "We have been extremely active," Volio added, "because although we are neutral, we cannot ignore what is occurring in other Central American countries."

According to official spokesmen, the emergency meeting of consultation that the "Contadora Group" foreign ministers are holding with the Costa Rican president, vice presidents and foreign ministers will last less than 2 hours. Zambrano, Lloreda Caicedo, Amado and Sepulveda will immediately travel to Managua and the other countries of the region.

HAVANA REPORTS ARRIVAL OF U.S. PERSONNEL

PA102349 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Text] A U.S. Navy ship carrying a group of sappers has anchored in Costa Rican territorial waters. They will carry out activities in the northern area of Costa Rica. The ship brought 22 engineering and demolition experts to Costa Rican territory. They were immediately transferred to Guanacaste Province on the border with Nicaragua.

The Costa Rican press has charged that the presence of those U.S. soldiers is part of a vast plan being developed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Government to destabilize the Sandinist revolution.

RADIO PROJECT MAKING 'SATISFACTORY PROGRESS'

PA111545 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 4 Apr 83 p 6A

[Text] Mario Mairena H. treasurer of the national committee for establishing a repeater stations, reported that the project for establishing a system of repeater stations throughout the country -- which was started by the cultural station Faro del Caribe more than a year ago -- is making satisfactory progress.

Mairena said that as of 10 March 1983, contributions received added up to 1.8 million colones, and the first tower was installed in Irazu volcano 3 months ago. Information Minister Armando Vargas Araya yesterday reported that Faro del Caribe is included in the plan to establish a radio-television system in northern Costa Rica as an efficient means to counter the foreign stations that broadcast a distorted image of events related to Central America.

TEN ANTI-SANDINISTS SURRENDER TO POLICE

PA120352 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0058 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] San Jose, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A group of 10 Anti-Sandinists, including 4 wounded, today surrendered to the Costa Rican police near the Nicaraguan border. The circumstances under which they were wounded is still not clear because while some say they were on Nicaraguan territory, others claim that a Sandinist patrol boat followed them close to the coast and opened fire on them after they had crossed the border.

The opponents of the Nicaraguan Government arrived at "Barra del Colorado," a town in the northern Atlantic sector, where the Civil Guard placed them under surveillance and ordered the wounded men to be transferred to the Tony Facio hospital in Puerto Limon. The other six were turned over to the National Security Office, where they are being questioned to learn more details of their participation in the guerrilla warfare in Nicaragua, and the circumstances in which their companions were wounded.

CLASH BETWEEN ANTI-SANDINIST FACTIONS REPORTED

PA130226 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Pastora's men have clashed with those of [Fernando; alias Negro] Chamorro Rapaccioli. The wounded people who entered through Barra del Colorado were wounded in a clash between Negro Chamorro's and Eden Pastora's people, Deputy Arnoldo Ferreto Segura has reported. The clash occurred at the place known as [words indistinct] on the Chirripocito River, in Costa Rican territory, the legislator of the Popular Vanguard Party said. This is the location of one of the counterrevolutionary camp we have denounced in [words indistinct], Ferreto said. Apparently there was a confrontation between Chamorro Rapaccioli's and Pastora's people over their counterrevolutionary ideologies, after which 10 of them -- 4 with bullet wounds -- arrived at Barra del Colorado, Ferreto added.

EL SALVADOR

'CONTADORA GROUP' TO ARRIVE FOR CONSULTATIONS

PA121719 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1648 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Official sources have reported here that the foreign ministers of the "Contadora Group" (Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama) will meet with Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena this afternoon in San Salvador. The visiting foreign ministers will arrive in El Salvador at 1330 (1930 GMT) and will meet with Chavez Mena, after which why will grant a joint press conference. The sources said that the Salvadoran foreign minister will make a statement to the press at the San Salvador airport before the foreign ministers arrive. The airport is located at Comalapa, 44 km south of San Salvador.

News Conference Held

PA130250 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2350 GMT 12 Apr 83

[News conference held by Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana Borja, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda and Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado in the presidential lounge of the international airport at Comalapa prior to the departure of the Contadora Group foreign ministers; distributed by Inter-Central American Radio Organization -- live]

[Text] [Magana] Good afternoon, mssrs foreign ministers: [words indistinct]. I am pleased to have had a visit from the distinguished foreign ministers of four friendly countries who have come to discuss the concerns, worries and problems of the Central American region.

This has been just a first meeting, in which we have had a general exchange of opinion. I believe it has been very fruitful, and we hope that in the near future we will reap the fruits of this first effort by four brother Latin American countries to try to help solve the problems that afflict the Central American region.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] No, we did not discuss specific problems. We had a general discussion of the present situation. As host, (?I will yield the floor) to the foreign minister.

[Zambrano] I have very little to add to President Magana's brief summary of the meeting that we have just held. It has been a cordial meeting in which we have had the opportunity, in compliance with the message of Contadora, which has been our inspiration, to meet, to get closer together, to enlighten ourselves as regards the viewpoints of other countries regarding the difficult topics that we are discussing; with the purpose of opening a dialogue and with the purpose of having the principles that guided the Contadora meeting and the efforts of our presidents lead soon to constructive solutions.

[Question] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, could you tell us what the position of the Nicaraguan Government is? We have been informed that you have met with some officials of the Nicaraguan Government.

[Zambrano] Our mission at this time is as I have just described it: to inform ourselves, to become familiar with other viewpoints that can be useful in achieving peace in the region. It would be negative and counterproductive, therefore, to give that kind of information, because the most important thing at this time is that we have all advanced toward constructive principles.

[Question] Mr President, honorable foreign ministers, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda. Mr Foreign Secretary, we would like you to tell us, please, if your government still maintains the position that it advanced along with the Government of France (?regarding) El Salvador approximately a year ago.

[Sepulveda] As President Magana and the Venezuelan foreign minister have said, we have discussed topics that are eminently multilateral and that concern regional questions. We have not discussed the topics (?that you mention).

[Question] Foreign Secretary Sepulveda, what is Mexico's objective in this meeting? What does it expect from this meeting?

[Answer] As you know, Mexico, in association with Panama, Venezuela and Colombia, began in January of last year an effort to try to identify some of the important issues in the Central American process; especially to identify certain principles that, in the opinion of the (?Contadora) countries, are relevant to the purpose of achieving peace in Central America. This is another effort in that direction, which has pragmatic manifestations in the series of meetings that we have held in the course of today and those that we will hold soon with other countries in the area.

[Magana] We must ask you to excuse us because, although I have invited them to spend the night here, they have commitments outside the country.

GARCIA ORDERS ARREST IN KIDNAPPING, MURDERS

PA120320 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Apr 83 pp 3, 33

[Text] The local commander of El Carmen, Cuscatlan Department, who has been accused of kidnapping Maria Concepcion Melendez, El Carmen's mayor, and a suspended officer who has been implicated in the killing of 16 peasants, have been arrested pending investigations.

Mayor Maria Concepcion Melendez was kidnapped approximately 1 month ago, and there is serious suspicion that the local commander of El Carmen is involved in the incident.

The officer is suspected in the killing of 16 peasants, members of the National Association of Salvadoran Indians, ANIS. We were told yesterday by Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia that whoever is found guilty in these incidents will be severely punished.

Garcia said that in personally ordering the arrest of El Carmen's local commander and the officer for being involved in these two cases, another step is being taken in respect for human rights.

The crime committed against the mayor and the murder of the 16 peasants are human rights violations; and the armed forces, said Garcia, wants human rights respected by punishing whoever is found guilty.

COPREFA CITES SUBVERSIVES' 'WAVE OF VIOLENCE'

PA112329 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee in San Salvador; no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] Terrorists continue their wave of violence and murder against defenseless civilians in different parts of the country. According to official reports, a large number of terrorists set fire to 10 manzanas of sugarcane fields located north of the Jiboa Sugar Mill, in Tecoluca, San Vicente Department. At the same time another group of subversives interrupted traffic in Aguacayo, San Sebastian jurisdiction, San Vicente, robbing travelers who happened to come by at the time.

It was also reported that terrorists had penetrated Santa Elena, Usulutan Department, blacking-out the town by destroying power lines. Afterward they set fire to the town's police station, partially destroying it.

In a clear demonstration of the way they constantly violate human rights, the terrorists are committing cold-blooded crimes against defenseless working people. They also kidnap persons, who are then forced to join their ranks. Among those murdered recently is (Carlos Hernandez Hernandez), who was shot to death in his home in the [name indistinct] neighborhood, Cara Sucia Canton, San Francisco Menendez jurisdiction, Ahuachapan. (Vicente Rivas Gonzalez) was also killed in (San Diequito) Canton, El Paisnal jurisdiction, San Salvador, after being robbed of 3,000 colones and a .38-cal revolver. Other victims of the subversives are (Miguel Contreras), (Ruben Cortes) and (Eduardo Parada) in Joya del Pilar Canton, Ozatlan jurisdiction, Usulutan.

It was also reported that the terrorists set fire to two tractors in (El Brazo) Canton, San Miguel. Among those kidnapped by the subversives are (Mihail Lemos), who was kidnapped at work in San Lucas Canton, Guazapa jurisdiction, San Salvador. (Beatriz de Paul Flores) was kidnapped from her home on (Barberena) Avenue, San Jacinto neighborhood, San Salvador.

200 SUBVERSIVES ATTACK, LOOT COMATEPEQUE

PA120251 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Apr 83 p 36

[Excerpts] A group of 200 subversives yesterday attacked Comatepeque, San Pedro Perulapan Jurisdiction, according to eyewitness reports. The reports said that at 0500 the terrorists attacked civil defense guards protecting the town, who were overwhelmed by the attackers' numerical superiority. Three civil defense guards died in the attack, and the others managed to flee. The son of the local commander was killed, and other civilians were wounded during the clash. The terrorists looted several stores and homes, carrying off large quantities of food. Comatepeque is close to Las Guaras Bridge, San Pedro Perulapan, on the road to Suchitoto.

EXTREMISTS KILL OFFICIALS IN SAN JUAN NONUALCO

PA120402 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Apr 83 pp 2, 36

[Text] The inhabitants of El Pajal, San Juan Nonualco, witnessed the murder of the civil defense chief and deputy chief, who were stood up against a wall and shot before dawn yesterday, according to the authorities of that town.

Approximately 400 extremists took over this town yesterday morning, harangued the people and then proceeded to kill Rodil Calderon and Rodolfo Herrera, chief and deputy chief of civil defense in El Pajal. The extremists stole money, food and jewelry from many inhabitants, and then withdrew in the direction of the coast, according to reports obtained by the authorities.

Authorities from Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department, reported that the terrorists carted off 10 G-3 rifles that they found in the civil defense building. The majority of the civil defense guards fled in the face of the numerical superiority of the subversives.

FMLN-FDR OFFICIAL SEEKS CARIBBEAN SUPPORT

PA130326 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2250 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Bridgetown (Barbados), 12 Apr (EFE) -- The Salvadoran leftist coalition that is struggling against the country's government has decided to expand its efforts to rally support from its Caribbean neighbors.

Ramon Cardonas, representative of the FMLN and FDR, is now touring the Caribbean to inform the countries of the area of the coalition's position in the conflict.

In his second visit to the area in less than 6 months, Cardonas met in St Lucia and Dominica with government officials, union leaders and church representatives. He described his visit as satisfactory because he was at least able to give information on the position of the FMLN and the FDR.

Cardonas has tried to persuade the governments of the area, some of which have very good relations with the United States, to use all their influence for a prompt and peaceful solution of the conflict. So far Cardonas has managed to get 12 CARICOM countries to support the opinion that what caused the conflict in El Salvador was social and political problems, and not Soviet-Cuban interference, as the United States wants it believed.

At a meeting held in November by CARICOM leaders, they included a clause in their final document supporting the position of the Salvadoran leftist coalition that sees the conflict as a social and political matter. Cardonas is very satisfied with the results obtained so far in his Caribbean negotiations, and affirmed that he has received no demonstrations of hostility from the persons with whom he has spoken.

Although these visits have not acheived the expected results, the coalition is thinking of sending a high-ranking political diplomatic delegation to the area to continue the campaign to rally support. In addition, the coalition will strengthen its representation in the United Nations with the appointment of Cardonas himself to the post of official in charge of the relations with the Caribbean.

The FMLN and FDR consider 1983 a "crucial" year for the conflict in El Salvador, since the U.S. and Salvadoran governments will have to make a decision. Cardonas said that the coalition expects the friends of the United States in the region to try to persuade the United States that the negotiating table is the best solution.

GUATEMALA

CONTADORA GROUP VISIT EXPECTED 13 APRIL

PA122046 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1911 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola said today that his government is expecting a visit by the Contadora Group foreign ministers, who are scheduled to arrive in this capital tomorrow. The Guatemalan foreign minister said he did not know at what time the visiting foreign ministers would arrive, but revealed that they would offer a joint press conference after the conversations they will hold here.

In statement to ACAN-EFE, Castillo Arriola reiterated the offer made by General Efrain Rios Montt's regime to hold the Central American foreign ministers meeting in that country. The same offer will be made tomorrow, personally, to the Contadora Group foreign ministers.

"Guatemala's viewpoint is that the problem must be solved in Central America, by the Central Americans, with honorable witnesses," Castillo Arriola explained. He opposed the idea that the meeting should take place outside the region. The Dominican Republic has also offered to host the meeting.

Foreign Ministers Juan Jose Amado of Panama, Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela, Dordrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia and Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico will arrive tomorrow in Guatemala. It will be the last country they visit in their quick 48-hour tour through five Central American countries.

10 GUERRILLAS, 1 SOLDIER DIE IN CLASHES

PA112309 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] Ten guerrillas and one soldier were killed in two armed actions staged in the northwest, the army has announced. In the first skirmish, nine guerrillas and one soldier died when a military patrol clashing with subversives near (San Juan Ixcan), Quiche Department. An alleged guerrilla died yesterday in Colombia, Quezaltenango, in another clash between a military patrol and a guerrilla group.

REPORT ON TERRORIST BOMB EXPLOSION IN CAPITAL

PA112314 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Report by (Felix Loarca Guzman)]

[Excerpts] A big blast was heard today in the early morning hours on 6th Avenue and 3d Street, in Zone 2. According to initial reports, 10 persons were injured by the explosion of a terrorist bomb. Several of the 10 casualties were seriously wounded and were taken for emergency treatment at the capital's military hospital. According to to unofficial versions, however, the casualties were army members who every morning come out to exercise near the National Palace.

For their part, the municipal firefighters dispatched several of their units -- Units R-7, D-7, D-25 and R-19. The latter is still near the scene of this regrettable incident. We have just contacted the national army's public relations office. According to them, there is no official information on these developments and no appropriate official was on hand to provide information on this incident.

COMMENTARY VIEWS CAUSES OF REGIONAL CONFLICT

PA122130 Guatemala City Radio Neuvo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Commentary by (Felix Loarca Guzman): "The Causes of the Central American Conflicts Are Economic and Political, Not Military" -- read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In a report published in Washington this month, a group of political, business and religious leaders stated that the basic roots of the insecurity and conflicts existing in Central America are economic and political, not military as some believe. The leaders added that the political struggles in the Central American region are primarily internal, rather than external. They thus dismissed the view of those who maintain that the conflicts in the area form part of an expansionist plan of Cuba and the USSR. They also indicate that the solution to the political conflicts is in the economic and social development of the peoples concerned.

The report proposed that as a means of promoting that development the IMF, the World Bank and the IDB receive more resources in order to have a more important function in making loans to Latin America. This measure would also promote long-term economic development and would alleviate the liquidity crisis in the region. The important document presented by the leaders of Latin America and the United States, including U.S. banker David Rockefeller and former Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber, recommended that aid be withheld from the governments in Central America and the rest of the continent that systematically violate human rights.

The report prepared by the leaders of North and South America emphasized that diplomatic relations must be more cordial toward democracies than toward authoritarian regimes, and they warned that unilateral intervention against abuses of human rights is improper, but that governments that systematically violate human rights should not receive aid.

The document, which was released in Washington, reflected a great concern over the serious upheaval that is currently underway in the Central American region. We agree with the spirit of the report prepared by the American leaders, which maintains that the causes of conflict in Central America are economic and political rather than military. To be more specific, we would say that the problem is more a matter of colonialism and dependency. The case of Central America is typical. The dependence of the republics in the region is no more than an extension of the old colonial system, with a change of era and metropolitan center. Yesterday, the colonizers were the Spaniards; now they are the North Americans.

The reality of our nations is a daily drama of misery that prevails in the fields and in the slums of our cities. Education, justice, religion, partisan politics and even sermons are full of imitations, prejudice, irrationality, anguish and complexes -- which comprise the constellation of values of those who only see the positive side of the great dominant metropolis. According to them, it is the only one capable of creating the present and building the future. In other words, this is a difficult historical crossroads for Central America and all the other oppressed and exploited nations that struggle, cry and die to become free.

HONDURAS

CONTADORA GROUP MINISTERS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

PA120124 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0051 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Tegucipalpa, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The foreign ministers of the "Contadora Group," made up of Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela, tonight arrived in Honduras for a round of consultations concerning a possible peace dialogue in Central America in the near future. Juan Jose Amado of Panama, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia, Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela and Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico arrived aboard a Colombian Air Force plane. Tonight the ministers will meet with Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova and his foreign minister, Edgardo Paz Barnica.

The Honduran foreign minister today declared that there will be "clear and respectful" talks with the "Contadora Group" foreign ministers. He added that they will be informed of the Honduran position, which sees the solution of the Central American crisis within a global and regional context.

Paz Barnica also said that the time had come for historic definitions in which there cannot be any further contemplation "of the whims of the Nicaraguan Government." Paz Barnica also considered that it is the Nicaraguan Government that does not want a dialogue of any kind concerning the Central American crisis. The foreign ministers will spend the night in Tegucigalpa and tomorrow will travel to Guatemala to continue consultations with that country's government.

Paz Barnica Comments

PA121824 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1720 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica today said that he expects to speak "clearly and respectfully" with his Mexican, Panamanian, Colombian and Venezuelan counterparts about peace in Central America. "We will listen to them attentively," Paz Barnica stressed, "but at the same time we will inform them of our proposals for peace which we believe must be built within a global and regional context."

However, he said that these proposals did not exclude the possibility of bilateral discussion of Honduran problems with Nicaragua. He described as "very positive and important" the meeting held by foreign ministers Juan Jose Amado of Panama, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colomiba, Juan Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela and Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico.

Paz Barnica explained that he has been in permanent contact with the foreign ministers of the "Contadora Group" and that he considers the conclusions they reached very important "because they will surely contribute to a lasting and stable peace in Central America." He noted that Central America has reached "a point and moment of historical definitions in which we cannot continue to cater to all the whims of the Nicaraguan Government."

He said that he beleives that the democratic system and the peaceful position of the Honduran people and government, which guide their foreign policy, must be reaffirmed. "Inspired by such principles, we will speak very clearly, respectfully today. We will speak with a receptive attitude and we hope to be heard in similar fashion," Paz Barnica said in conclusion.

Meeting With Suazo

PA130359 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0303 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (DPA) -- The foreign ministers of the "Contadora Group" (Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela) met today in Tegucigalpa with Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova. The meeting, between the visitors and Suazo Cordova was also attended by Presidency Secretary Carlos Flores and Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, according to Government House sources, who declined comment on what was discussed at the meeting.

The foreign ministers of the "Contadora Group," Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico, Juan Jose Amado of Panama, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia and Alberto Zambrano Velasco of Venezuela, arrived in Tegucigalpa from San Jose and will travel tomorrow to Guatemala. The foreign ministers of the "Contadora Group," whose initiative led to the suspension by the OAS of a meeting to discuss the Honduran proposal, met with Suazo Cordova for over 1 hour, from 1850 to 2000 (Central American time).

Results of Talks Cited

PA130507 Paris AFP in Spanish 0430 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (AFP) -- Honduras has reiterated before the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group the need to promote dialogue among the five Central American countries as the only means to overcome the tension in the area.

Tonight, at the close of a meeting of the Colombian, Venezuelan, Mexican and Panamanian foreign ministers with the highest Honduran Government authorities, Presidency Secretary Carlos Flores said that there had been an insistence on the five-country dialogue proposal because Central American problems "cannot be dealt with at a bilateral level."

The foreign delegation, which met for 50 minutes with President Roberto Suazo Cordova, and later expanded on its consultations for almost 2 hours with Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica and Presidency Secretary Carlos Flores, is on a "fact-finding" mission, the presidency secretary explained. Flores said that the foreign ministers made some proposals to the Honduran Government," but mainly limited themselves to listening to our points of view."

The Honduran minister remarked that there are internal, bilateral and regional problems on the Central American isthmus; that Honduras has held bilateral meetings with all countries in the area; and that "it is time for problems to be discussed globally." He noted in this respect that problems "like the reduction of the arms race, the arms traffic and the harassment against democratic governments cannot be dealt with at a bilateral level."

"For this reason," he added, "Honduras [word indistinct] the ministers of the Contadora Group a meeting of the Central American foreign ministers soon." Flores said that his government will continue to participate in that meeting because the Central American countries agree on approaching the problems globally, and only Nicaragua has shown some reticence, for reasons he didn't know. The foreign ministers of the Contardora Group will travel early tomorrow morning to Guatemala on the next leg of their tour through the Central American capital's"to determine if there exists [words indistinct] dialogue" among the region's governments.

NICARAGUA

U.S. CONGRESSMEN ARRIVE ON FACT-FINDING TOUR

PA120502 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] A delegation of U.S. Congressmen headed by Berkley W. Bedell, Democratic representative from Iowa, arrived in Nicaragua on Saturday. Yesterday the congressional mission visited Esteli and Nueva Segovia Departments on reports that the Reagan Administration is involved in covert activities to topple the Nicaraguan Government.

On their arrival at Sandino Airport, Congressmen Bedell said that it is an error for the United States to support military efforts against legitimate governments. Other members of the delegation are Robert G. Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat; (Richard Clarke) a former Senator; Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador; and (Bernie Arson), a Democratic Party leader.

Delegation Ends Visit

PA130141 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Visibily moved and shaken, U.S. Democratic Congressman Berkley Bedell said a few moments before leaving Nicaragua that if we were a Nicaraguan he would be indignant at Reagan's policy toward this region.

The U.S. Congressmen collected information on the aggression against Nicaragua by the Somozist counterrevolutionary military units. These units are being prodded by the U.S. Government from Honduras. The congressmen who visited Nicaragua were able to confirm that the aggression being carried out against the Nicaraguan revolutionary process is financed, armed and trained by the CIA, a U.S. Government instrument to destabilize the Sandinist People's Government and its social transformation project.

'CONTADORA GROUP' MINISTERS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

PA121727 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1707 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Managua, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)-- The foreign ministers of Venezuela, Panama, Colombia and Mexico, who comprise the "Contadora Group," arrived today in Nicaragua in search of consensus with the Central American governments in an effort to promote peace in the area. Foreign Ministers Juan Jose Amado of Panama, Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia and Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico arrived aboard a Colombian Air Force plane.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto welcomed the visiting foreign ministers at Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport. D'Escoto himself had arrived earlier from Panama. The Colombian foreign minister told the journalists that "our tour of Central America is very important for Latin America." The "Contadora Group" ministers left immediately for Managua, where they opened talks with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta. The foreign ministers are expected to hold a news conference after their talks with Ortega.

Ministers' Activities Cited

PA121953 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Excerpts] At 1000 local time, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman received in this capital Foreign Ministers Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico, Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela, Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of Colombia and Juan Jose Amado of Panama. The ministers are on a quick tour of the Central American countries to negotiate a peaceful solution to the area crisis.

The foreign ministers, who arrived aboard a Colombian Air Force plane, immediately headed for the Government House where they met with Commander Daniel Ortega, Foreign Minister D'Escoto and Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga. The delegation is expected to go on to El Salvador in about an hour. Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena has held a news conference at the airport there, prior to the arrival of this high-level negotiating mission.

Meeting Termed 'Very Positive'

PA130131 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0011 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Managua, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- At the conclusion of the visit to Nicaragua by the foreign ministers of the so-called "Contadora Group," the diplomatic effort has been characterized as "very positive." However, no details of the talks held at the highest level have been made public.

Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Necaraguan Junta, and Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, who spoke on behalf of his Venezuelan, Panamanian and Colombian colleagues, said that the results of the meeting were good for peace in Central America.

The four foreign ministers, who arrived from Costa Rica abroad a Colombian Air Force plane, also met with Commander Humberto Ortega, chief of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces. The foreign ministers left for El Salvador this afternoon.

Commander Julio Ramos, chief of the Army Intelligence Office, Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto; and Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga also participated in the meeting at Government House. The meeting lasted several hours.

The foreign ministers agreed yesterday in Panama to make a tour through Central America to gain information on the opinions of the leaders of this region in order to promote efforts for peace in Central America, and especially to ease the delicate crisis that exists between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The coordinator of the Government Junta said that the efforts of the foreign ministers "display a Latin American spirit" and show that there is concern in those countries (Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama) over the Central American crisis.

Daniel Ortega said that the Managua government clearly told its interlocutors about the position of the Sandinist regime on securing a definite dialogue with Honduras and, separately, with the United States.

Nicaragua has said that an "unrenounceable" condition for a bilateral dialogue is the "unconditional" withdrawal of the anti-Sandinist groups that have invaded the country since January. The invasion activities were increased in February, and there has been intense fighting in the country's north-central region between the army and Somozist detachments.

The Mexican foreign secretary said that after talking with Commander Daniel Ortega and his assistants, [he and the visiting foreign ministers] FBIS able to take note of points of view that will allow them to enhance their knowledge of "a crisis we consider to be delicate." He added: "We want to contribute with mechanisms and systems that will permit a dialogue -- communications -- between the interested parties."

Ruiz Report

PA130313 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz has reported on the possibility that the Contadora Group foreign ministers will make a tour through Central America today in an effort to avert a war in the region.

Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, who returned yesterday from Mexico, where he met with President Miguel de la Madrid, said that the mission of the foreign ministers from Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia and Panama is to obtain specific expressions of the political will that exists in these tense moments in Central America. The problem can be solved if specific desires are expressed for bilateral dialogue between Nicaragua and Honduras, and Nicaragua and the United States, Commander Ruiz said.

He added that in the last few hours efforts have been made to avoid a political farce at the OAS, where Nicaragua, which is the country under attack, would have been presented as the aggressor. But, Ruiz said, the meeting, scheduled for yesterday, Monday, was suspended indefinitely. This suspension, Commander Ruiz said, must be recognized as the result of the political will in this continent for real efforts toward peace in Central America. At the same time, a very serious concern exists for the causes of the current conflicts in the region.

According to the Nicaraguan planning minister, a period of negotiations has begun to avoid war. He [word indistinct] the so-called Contadora Group, which together with European and Latin American countries, shares the opinion that the present situation might lead to a total war.

It is recognized that the penetration into Nicaragua of Somozists, who are supported, supplied and financed by the Reagan administration, represents the beginning of an activity that might lead to a war throughout the Central American area as the situation worsens, he said. The declaration of the foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama is a practical formula to advance toward the established goals of peace and coexistence, he added.

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING

PA130429 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Communique issued by the Public and Foreign Relations Section of the Defense Ministry in Managua on 12 April 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] [intercepted in progress]... killing three of the counterrevolutionaries and capturing an RPG-7 rocket launcher.

At 1400, our troops, who were pursuing the enemy in El Carmen, 6 km west of Rancho Grande, again entered into a fight with the counterrevolutionaries between (Tabaco) and (Macizos) of Penas Blancas. Subsequently, those same counterrevolutionaries fought with our troops in the area of San Jose de Bocay. As a result of this encirclement and annihilation operation, 49 counterrevolutionaries were killed and a great amount of military materiel was recovered.

At 1700, our troops fought against counterrevolutionaries at (El Tobon) Hill, 22 km northeast of San Carlos. One counterrevolutionary was killed and 10 were captured. In that operation, eight M-1 carbines and two [words indistinct]. There were no casualties on our side.

On 10 April, at 0500, counterrevolutionary individuals attacked (Naope), (Tabaco), 5 km northeast of (Macizos) of Penas Blancas. One of our companeros was killed. The number of casualties sustained by the enemy is unknown.

On 11 April, a group of counterrevolutionaries attacked (Naope), a neighborhood 22 km northeast of Jinotega, killing two militiamen and occupying the installations. They later went through the town of Santa Israel, where they kidnapped a professor.

Today, members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] are fighting on the banks of the Bocay River with a counterrevolutionary task force called Ruben Dario, which entered our country from Honduran territory some days ago, when 20 counterrevolutionaries were killed.

As a result of the fighting, the counterrevolutionaries have sustained 237 casualties, including 197 killed. The EPS has had 34 killed and 14 wounded. Ten peasants have been killed and three kidnapped.

BORGE DENOUNCES 'INCREASED U.S. AGGRESSION'

PA122003 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge reiterated in Managua the Nicaraguan people's determination to have a just and honorable peace. During the closing session of the Fourth Congress of Latin American Unity, Borge referred to the danger of the U.S. Government's increased aggression. He also referred to Nicaragua's interest in living in peace. Borge also accused Ronald Reagan of trying to keep Central America as a strategic U.S. reserve, with permission to kill, exercise brutality and attack the peoples of the area.

According to Borge, the U.S. Government is trying to deceive public opinion by making the people believe that there is a civil war in Nicaragua instead of a U.S. invasion. In this way, the U.S. Government does not have to negotiate with the Salvadoran revolutionaries. [sentence as heard]

Borge said that by sending U.S. military advisers to Honduras to train Salvadoran soldiers, the Reagan administration is making fun of the decisions of the U.S. Congress. Representatives of 23 countries of the region who participated in the Latin American Unity Congress made an urgent call to the U.S. and Honduran Governments to stop helping and training the aggressive bands invading Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, former president Jose Figueres of Costa Rica said during an activity in Rivas that the attacks on Nicaragua must stop immediately and that the United States ought to realize that it cannot tell the Central American peoples what to do. Figueres also said that helicopter flights from Costa Rica with arms for the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries must stop.

COMMANDER BORGE VIEWS POLITICAL PLURALISM

PA122015 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1904 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Managua, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has said that any political party in the country can reach power, but warned that the people have already chosen the path of the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua.

Borge spoke in Managua to representatives of 23 countries which make up the Movement for Latin American Unity and told them that the main political parties are discussing a bill on how the parties will operate. He added that this bill will guarantee the parties' access to power; however, he noted that it is not a law which gives a particular party this opportunity, "but the people's will."

Why should we be afraid of the Conservative Party, or the Social Christians or a group of two-bit parties?," the Sandinist commander asked. "How could we think," he added, "that our people are going to prefer the Somozists or the Conservatives? We would have to be idiots to believe that." The Sandinists previously announced that they will hold elections in 1985, but they also warned that the elections "will not be held to raffle power."

This is the first time, however, that a Sandinist commander has said that the country's political parties can have "an access to power," although he stressed that "the Nicaraguan people have already chosen their destiny, which is the Sandinist revolution." The opposition sectors are not participating in the discussion of the law on political parties. The "Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board," which includes the country's dissident parties, agreed to withdraw from the discussions of the bill late last year, alleging that "there are no conditions for a free debate."

The interior minister also said that the project of the Sandinist revolution will guarantee political pluralism and a mixed economy. In referring to Nicaraguan private businessmen, Borge said that they "might cash their checks in the banks, but they cannot cash in on political power."

JUNTA MAKES CHANGES IN JUSTICE MINISTRY

PA121145 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction issued a note today announcing the changes that have been made in the Justice Ministry. Here is the official report issued by the Government House Press Office:

The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, using its authority, has decided:

Article 1. To transfer Companero Ernesto Castillo Martinez, currently president of the Higher Education National Council, to the justice minister post.

Article 2. To transfer Companero Carlos Arguello to the post of deputy minister of justice.

Article 3. To transfer Companero Boris Vega Sanchez, currently deputy minister of justice, to the post of justice of the Managua Appeals Court, replacing Companero Luis Arguello, who is being transferred to the Justice Ministry.

Article 4. This decision goes into effect the moment those appointed take the oath before the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

[Dated] Managua, 20 April 1983, year of struggle for peace and sovereignty.

HAVANA REPORTS ON FSLN DIRECTORATE COMMUNIQUE

PA121356 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] The FSLN issued a communique on Sunday in Managua announcing that all of the country's resources will be concentrated on defense in the face of the military aggression carried out by the United States and the Honduran regime. The FSLN also reiterates its decision to hold a dialogue in search of a peaceful solution to the conflict. The document stresses that the unrenounceable requirements for such a dialogue are the unconditional withdrawal of the genocidal forces that the United States has introduced into Nicaragua and an end to the border attacks from Honduras.

The communique released by the FSLN National Directorate thoroughly explains how the U.S. Government has launched an undeclared war against Nicaragua. This undeclared war includes the infiltration of forces composed of former guardsmen of Anastasio Somoza's ousted tyranny from Honduran territory, which then operate in Nicaragua. The document warns against the possibility that under Washington's orders, the Tegucigalpa regime might take new, aggressive steps. It also urges preparations against any eventuality, including direct U.S. intervention.

HAVANA ON CONCERN OVER HONDURAN OAS INITIATIVE

PA121857 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has expressed its concern over the fact that the Honduran regime has submitted to the OAS a draft resolution which, if approved, would hinder the efforts to prevent a generalized war in Central America and to preserve international peace and security. In a document released in Managua, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry declares that the continuation of maneuvers intended to isolate Nicaragua in no way contributes to the search for security in the area. Further on, the document states that Nicaragua does not deem it prudent to compromise the international efforts currently underway at the United Nations or the consultations that several Latin American governments are currently conducting in search of mechanisms aimed at the achievement of peace and security in each of the area countries.

MINISTRY REPORTS ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT BOAT

PA130508 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry Information and Press Office in Managua; date not specified -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry announces that on Sunday, 10 April, a group of 10 counterrevolutionaries dressed in olive drab and armed with AK rifles, traveling in a white launch, attacked a Transportation Ministry boat off the town of Tasbapauni in Zelaya Department. In that action, the criminal group, after taking over the boat, captured all its occupants and took them to Costa Rican territory, specifically Barra del Colorado, and later to Puerto Limon. As a result of the attack, (Ernesto Jose Rodriguez Ruedas) was injured. According to reports that we have received, he has been admitted to the (Tommy Facio) Hospital in Puerto Limon. The other people who were taken away were (Edgar Arguello), (Sandy Brook) and (William Castillo). The Foreign Ministry has sent an official note to the Costa Rican Government requesting that it cooperate in bringing about the return of those kidnapped and the capture of the criminals.

COMMENTARY STRESSES JUNTA'S PEACE EFFORTS

PA111615 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 83

["Beyond the News" commentary: "Tomorrow Can Be Too Late"]

[Text] The undeclared crazy war that the Reagan administration is promoting in every field against Nicaragua has at least had the merit of stirring the broadest sectors of world public opinion, even in the United States. This proves that there is a solid foundation of common sense whose magnitude can twist the will of the aggressor and put him in a straightjacket.

Colombian President Betancur's trip to Venezuela, Mexico and Panama; the agreements at the Socialist International congress; the proposal made yesterday in Rivas by a Costa Rican Legislative Assembly delegation; the meeting in San Juan del Sur between Commander Tomas Borge and Fernando Volio, Costa Rican foreign minister; and many more statements, official efforts and meetings in the last few weeks, prove the incomparable reason of those who, like the Nicaraguan Government, are promoting dialogue and political negotiation -- in comparison to the pretentions of imperialism: imposed military superiority and a return to their old pattern of dominion in the area.

No unbiased observer would deny the evidence that all initiatives of peace and negotiation have been presented by Nicaragua or by suggestion of its vanguard, the FSLN. On the other hand, imperialism and its peons -- after observing a prolonged silence during a period used to prepare the invasion which has become a reality against our country -- have pulled from their sleeves tricky proposals which are unacceptable and impractical. These proposals are not for peace, but to gain time to carry out a decision made before Reagan assumed the Presidency of the United States. While they planned the aggression which has already cost our people hundreds of lives, they accused Nicaragua of conducting an arms race -- as if the legitimate defense measures implemented by our country had not been in direct relation to the magnitude of the forces and means mobilized against Nicaragua. If our revolution had delayed the precautions for its defense, imperialism would have long ago tried here another Santo Somingo, another Guatemala, another Chile.

A few days ago, the FSLN National Directorate made a firm and serene call to the people to oppose an aggression whose first phase had already been unleashed. Simultaneously, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, in a dramatic exhortation to the forces of international solidarity, warned that the obsessively aggressive policy of the U.S. Government's rapidly damaging the real possibilities of reaching a negotiated solution to the Central American problem.

Despite this, the revolutionary government reiterates its willingness to keep the doors open to dialogue and negotiation, but there is an indispensable precondition: that the Somozist counterrevolutionary forces that invaded Nicaragua be unconditionally withdrawn and the attacks by genocidal commandos and the Honduran Army along our northern border be immediately stopped. This dignified, responsible and patriotic attitude demands the support of all Nicaraguans. To defend Nicaragua in the domestic and international field requires the support of our Sandinist Peoples Army, of the reserve battalions, of the people's militias, of productive industries, of the Sandinist Defense Committees, of the popular health campaign to vaccinate our children against polio, of schools in which youth can study and prepare for defense, of agricultural centers to provide food for the country and guarantee products for export.

Only declared or disguised Somozists can be excused from this crucial task, the fifth column paving the way for the cruelty of the invaders. The FSLN National Directorate has fulfilled its role: It has called for all possible efforts aimed at bringing peace to the region and the world; it has shown great patience in not being disturbed by the provocations of the enemy. Now that our vanguard puts us on the alert, every Nicaraguan should take combat positions to form a force that can impose peace; that can dissuade the aggressive attitude of our enemies. Now, if the cards have been dealt, let us repeat Sandino's deeds and prove that real Nicaraguans are inspired by the same Sandinist slogan: Free fatherland or death. There is no alternative.

REBEL STATION REJECTS GOVERNMENT CHARGES

PA090[illegible] (Clandestine) Voice of Free Nicaragua in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] Nicaragua cannot be invaded by Nicaraguans. The Nicaraguan situation has entered a phase of intensified revolutionary struggle that is beginning to have an effect on the homeland due to the people's resolute participation. Today as yesterday, they take up their arms to defeat the treacherous government.

While our revolutionary and patriotic forces prepare to rescue democratically the nation's revolution and our organized people deal internal blows for their liberation, the desperate enemies of peace make clumsy and illogical accusations to the effect that Nicaragua is the victim of aggression and invasion. Nicaragua's problems demand that all the really patriotic and revolutionary citizens participate. Only our people's will to win will decide the final victory.

Nicaragua is our homeland and we have the right to fight for it. We have the right to defend it to the end with arms in hand. No one can stain our principles and our dignity and the undying memory of our heroes and martyrs. No patriot who struggles for our people's true interests can be considered an invader, let alone an aggressor, because this would deny him his patriotic duty and worse, his right to fight and sacrifice himself for his country. Nicaragua cannot be invaded by the Nicaraguan patriots who are fighting to save it from the claws of totalitarianism.

Those who struggle for the land where they were born and are determined to oust the thousands of internationalists that today trample our homeland cannot be invaders. Those who pick up General Sandino's nationalist banner to fight an occupation army of more than 25,000 mercenaries who have come disguised as doctors, teachers and advisers to maintain a system of terror, by killing our Indian brothers and our peasants, cannot be invaders.

Our struggle is authentic and legitimate because we are our homeland's true children. We are the ones who want to rescue the dignity and the sovereignty that have been turned over to the Russians and Cubans; the ones who are going to rescue the Nicaraguan revolution democratically, to initiate the reconstruction of our homeland that today is invaded and aasaulted by the advocates of hatred and servility.

Long live the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, Arde.

MISURASATA LEADER REJECTS DIALOGUE WITH FSLN

PA080623 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1724 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The chief of the general staff of the "Misurasata" [Miskito, Sumos, Rama, Sandinist Unity] Indian organization, Steadman Fagoth Muller, today said that the Sandinist front "has no moral stature or political authority" to establish a dialogue on the pacification of Nicaragua.

"They neither have the moral stature nor the political authority, because we, the 'Misurasata,' in 1981 proposed a dialogue, and we talked and negotiated with them, but later they abused and humiliated us," the exiled Indian leader said.

Then he added: "The opposition democratic parties, gathered around the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, also proposed a dialogue and submitted a package of alternatives to pacify the country, but they met the same fate we did."

"Later, only 2 months ago, the 'Nicaraguan Democratic Force' offered a pacification dialogue to the 'Sandinist Front' in an effort to stop shedding the precious blood of our Nicaragua, and they replied with bullets," Fagoth Muller said.

The leader noted that after such experiences "we do not believe in negotiations with the Sandinists. We have lost our trust in them."

The statement of the "Misurasata" leader was issued as his group's reply to the proposal for negotiations made by the Nicaraguan Government last Monday to the Governments of Honduras and the United States.

Fagoth Muller explained that he is not against a dialogue. "I want a dialogue, but that does not mean that I will accept a dialogue with Sandinism," he said.

"Should there be a dialogue, it must be concerned with the tormented, thousand-times heroic people, enslaved since 1821 independence date," the leader emphasized.

He immediately stressed: "It is with those people forgotten, isolated and forsaken by the oligarchies, by the traditionalists, by the Somozas and now by international communism that the 'Sandinist Front' has to hold a dialogue; not with the Governments of Honduras and the United States."

"The dialogue proposals to Honduras and the United States are nothing more than a Sandinist maneuver to gain time; but due to our determination to free our country from the communist yoke, we are not going to give them that opportunity," Fagoth Muller stated.

Likewise, the Indian leader noted: "The Sandinist front will never negotiate over our blood and bodies because we will never weaken. And we are determined to fight to the end, because our dialogue with the Sandinists is well advanced; the dialogue of the arms in our hands."

"Misurasata" is an organization made up of Miskito, Sumu and Rama Indians who inhabit a large jungle area in northeast Nicaragua known as the "Mosquitia," and according to Fagoth Muller it is fighting the Sandinist army "on every mountain of the country's Atlantic coast."

WESTERN BANKS AGREE TO RESCHEDULE PAYMENTS

NC121610 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, April 12 (AFP) -- Western banks owed money by Cuba have agreed to reschedule 140 million dollars of medium-term debt, banking sources said here today. The sum corresponds to amounts falling due between September 1, 1982 and December 31, 1983. The agreement, signed by the Cuban Central Bank and the Western banks agent, the French bank Credit Lyoannais, postpones payments to the period January 1, 1984 to July 1, 1990. Interests payable is at the LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) plus 2.25 percent.

Another round of talks is set here for next Friday covering short-term debt, which is estimated at under one billion dollars.

In addition to Credit Lyonnais, creditor banks include the National Bank of Canada, Midland Bank, Industrial Bank of Japan, Bank of Bilbao, Spanish-Arab Bank and others.

TV COMMENTATORS VIEW CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION

FL121950 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1245 GMT 12 Apr 83

[International commentary by Jose Fernandez Vilela of the Revista de la Manana program staff and Javier Rodriguez of PRENSA LATINA]

[Text] [Fernandez Vilela] The tense situation in Central America, basically caused by the not-so-secret war waged by the United States against Nicaragua, is now being affected by factors of ever-growing strength which attempt to find a peaceful solution at the same time as U.S. machinations are becoming more general. If we make a review, Javier, of the large amount of information which has arrived in the last few hours on the situation, we find that the tour initiated this morning by the Venezuelan, Colombian, Panamanian and Mexican foreign ministers, a 48-hour tour of all the Central American countries, is a presistent effort in search of peace within the framework of the so-called Contradora agreement by the countries that signed that agreement.

The U.S. television network ABC has reported that the CIA, according to strange statements by Pentagon sources, is directly leading the activities of the Somozista gangs or Somozista task forces in Nicaragua. The OAS today rejected a proposal submitted by Honduras with U.S. backing to call a regional meeting aimed at distracting or delaying the definitive and full solution to the problems existing between Nicaragua and the United States and between Nicaragua and Honduras in order to reduce the disagreements. As you know, to this is added the declaration signed by the Colombian, Panamanian and Costa Rican presidents in Panama last Sunday in search of peace, as well as the statements made by former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres, who is an influential politician in that country and who condemned in Nicaragua the U.S. machinations and provocations against Nicaragua and Central America in general.

All these reports form a picture showing the will of the peoples and a growing number of governments in Latin America with an interest in solving the armed conflict, which threatens to spread all over Central America.

[Rodriguez] In fact, Vilela, I believe that there is rather great concern, and that is natural among all the political circles and the media in those countries and among the governments which agree on the need to prevent a general clash in the area. There is very great concern at the situation existing in Central America and the Caribbean. Everybody knows that this situation has become aggravated basically because of U.S. intransigence and the U.S. position of refusing to go along with any political solution to the conflicts shaking Central America and the Caribbean, in addition to the increasingly decisive influence of the most bellicose sectors of the U.S. Administration over the course of its foreign policy, mainly over its foreign policy in Central America and the Caribbean; all this has led the region to this situation of highly dangerous tension.

Day by day reports are published, such as those you have mentioned, which clearly disclose the ever more direct U.S, participation, through its espionage teams, the CIA and its espionage agencies, in the leadership and coordination of the counterrevolutionary actions against Nicaragua, the activities in El Salvador and the actions against Cuba, Grenada, Suriname and all countries which definitely do not follow the dictates of U.S. foreign policy.

So it is natural that a whole mechanism has been put in motion, prompted by the interests of a number of Latin American countries, to try to prevent a situation which, as stated by Commander Daniel Ortega, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, as well as by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister d'Escoto, may lead to general war in all the Central American region at any moment. This is the reason for Colombian President Betancur's proposals and his meetings with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and with other leaders of the area such as the Panamanian and Venezuelan presidents. This is the reason for the effort that is being made by means of a direct visit by the foreign ministers of those countries to the Central American countries.

Now it should be pointed out that simultaneously with these efforts, the United States, naturally helped by Honduras, has been following a policy of obstructing all attempts to solve the situation by the countries represented in the Contadora agreement. The United States and Honduras are also trying to channel a so-called discussion of the Central American question to the OAS, thus trying to isolate Nicaragua and to ignore reality, namely the invasion which is being carried out against Nicaragua, by trying to include the latter in a packet of alleged regional disagreements which should be discussed at the OAS.

We also find that yesterday in a letter to the Security council, the United States categorically publicly refused to hold a bilateral discussion with Nicaragua regarding the disagreements between the two countries, and we also find that Honduras has submitted a draft resolution to the OAS whose discussion was stopped thanks to the attitude assumed by the countries which participated in the Contadora meeting, the four countries which have carried out the peace effort, that is, Venezuela, Mexico, Panama and Colombia. The United States was behind the Honduran draft, which was aimed at confusing world public opinion and isolating Nicargua while trying to draw attention from the aggression against Nicaragua.

[Fernandez Vilela] Of course, those are trial balloons in a diversionist maneuver, a maneuver in an attempt to isolate Nicaragua, just as you said. Among other things, Honduras is trying to gain time with the support of the United States and some other regimes of the region in order to bring about a regional negotiation.

Nicaragua is not at all opposed to a regional negotiation, but it says that before such a negotiation, there should be negotiations among the countries which are involved in the conflict, that is, between Honduras and Nicaragua on the one hand and between Nicaragua and the United States on the other, in order that their disagreements be resolved, and then the other problems could be solved. A regional negotiation of this type [as proposed by Honduras] would not achieve anything, it would only lead to a greater isolation of Nicaragua.

In this connection, Javier, I would like to stress the great importance of President Betancur's initiative of its weekend trip, which achieved having the countries of the so-called Contadora agreement... I do not know if you remember that it is called Contadora because this January those four countries -- Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela -- had a meeting on the Panamanian island of Contadora and approved a declaration appealing for peace in Central America. This weekend Colombian President Betancur renewed, the efforts to find a peaceful solution for Central America through the trip mentioned by Javier.

Yesterday, the Colombian delegation to the OAS, backed by other Latin American countries, succeeded in bringing about the postponement of the Honduran proposal until the efforts of the foreign ministers from the Contadora agreement countries could lead to some result. I think that this effort by Colombia and the so-called Contadora agreement coutnries is important.

[Rodriguez] I also believe it is important to state that there can be no political solutions or even the beginning of discussions of a political solution without taking into account the basic conditions that Nicaragua has set for reaching an agreement. They are logical conditions. For example, the counterrevolutionary gangs that have entered Nicaragua from Honduran territory with U.S. support must leave Nicaragua. There must also be an end to the border attacks under which Nicaragua is suffering periodically, also from Honduran territory. Everyone knows that thousands of former Somoza guards are in camps in the border area constantly attacking Nicaragua from Honduran territory. Other groups have also been introduced into Nicaraguan territory. There must certainly be an end to this situation as an initial condition for any discussion. That is the Nicaraguan proposal, which is logical but has been rejected, which is also quite logical, because otherwise the situation of tension created by the United States and Honduras would be overcome.

It will only be possible to solve this situation through good will, that is, through a real discussion in good faith to achieve peace in the region. Otherwise, the situation will worsen, tensions, will become more acute and we will continue to experience difficult times in Central America and the Caribbean.

In our commentary of the Central American situation, we also would have liked to include the recent reports made by the U.S. television network ABC, disclosing the direct CIA intervention in the aggression against Nicaragua, but time is up and we cannot go into this matter, which is very interesting and which will be reported on in the next Revista de la Manana bulletin.